

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An adjustable socket comprising:  
a driver rotatable around a longitudinal axis and having a first end;  
a polygonal recess disposed in said first end of said driver;  
a second recess adjacent said polygonal recess; and  
a stopper disposed in said second recess, said stopper adjustable in a direction of said longitudinal axis.
2. The adjustable socket of claim 1, wherein said stopper is adjustable into and out of said first recess.
3. The socket of claim 1, wherein said polygonal recess comprises a hexagonal recess.
4. The socket of claim 1, wherein said second recess is a threaded cylindrical recess.
5. The socket of claim 4, wherein said stopper comprises a set screw having threads engaging said second recess.
6. The socket of claim 1, wherein said second recess comprises a diameter smaller than said polygonal recess.
7. The socket of claim 1, wherein said polygonal recess and said second recess are coaxial with said longitudinal axis of said driver.
8. The socket of claim 1, wherein said driver comprises a second end receptive of a wrench lever arm.
9. The socket of claim 1, wherein said driver comprises a second end receptive of a power tool.

10. The socket of claim 1, wherein said driver comprises stainless steel.
11. An adjustable socket operative to rotatably drive a fastener comprising:  
a first recess disposed in said socket receptive of said fastener; and  
an adjustable stopper disposed in a second recess of said adjustable socket for limiting penetration of said fastener into said first recess.
12. The adjustable socket of claim 11, wherein said fastener is a nut and said adjustable stopper prevents penetration of said nut into said first recess to no more than a thickness of said nut.
13. The adjustable socket of claim 11, wherein said adjustable stopper and said second recess comprise mating threads.
14. The adjustable socket of claim 13, wherein said adjustable stopper is movable longitudinally along said socket in response to relative rotation between said stopper and said socket.
15. The adjustable socket of claim 11, wherein said first recess comprises a hexagonal shape.
16. The adjustable socket of claim 11, wherein said socket is formed comprising an alloy.
17. The adjustable socket of claim 17, wherein said socket is formed comprising stainless steel.
18. A method of tightening or loosening a fastener without damaging a work piece secured with said fastener, said method comprising adjusting a stopper disposed within a socket driver to control an extent to which said fastener is engaged by said driver.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said stopper comprises a threaded set screw and said adjusting a stopper further comprises rotating said stopper with respect to said socket driver to move said stopper axially within said socket driver.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising connecting said socket driver to a wrench or power tool.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising rotatably driving said socket driver.

22. A method of attaching or detaching components of a printed circuit assembly comprising:

providing a socket having first and second recesses, said first recess comprising a polygonal recess receptive of a fastener for said printed circuit assembly, wherein said second recess comprises a threaded recess having an adjustable set screw disposed therein; and  
adjusting said set screw to limit a depth of said first recess.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said adjusting said set screw further comprises rotating said set screw to move said set screw axially within said socket.

24. The method of claim 22, further comprising:  
engaging said fastener in said first recess; and  
rotatably driving said socket.

25. A method of making an adjustable socket comprising:  
fabricating a driver rotatable around a longitudinal axis and having a first end;  
forming a polygonal recess in said first end of said driver;  
forming a second recess adjacent said polygonal recess; and  
inserting a stopper in said second recess, said stopper being adjustable to limit a depth of said polygonal recess.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising forming said second recess to render said stopper adjustable by moving said stopper along said longitudinal axis.
27. The method of claim 26, further comprising threading said second recess.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein said inserting a stopper further comprises engaging a set screw with threads of said second recess.
29. The method of claim 25, wherein said driver is substantially cylindrical.
30. The method of claim 25, wherein said forming a polygonal recess further comprise forming a hexagonal recess.
31. An adjustable socket operative to rotatably drive a fastener comprising:  
engagement means for engaging said fastener; and  
stopper means for limiting penetration of said fastener into said engagement means.
32. The adjustable socket of claim 31, wherein said stopper means comprise an adjustable stopper disposed in a recess of said adjustable socket for limiting penetration of said fastener into said engagement means.
33. The adjustable socket of claim 32, wherein said fastener is a nut and said adjustable stopper prevents penetration of said nut into said engagement means to no more than a thickness of said nut.
34. The adjustable socket of claim 31, wherein said adjustable stopper and said recess comprise mating threads.

35. The adjustable socket of claim 34, wherein said adjustable stopper is movable longitudinally along said socket in response to relative rotation between said stopper and said socket.
36. The adjustable socket of claim 31, wherein said engagement means comprise a first recess.
37. The adjustable socket of claim 26, wherein said first recess has a hexagonal shape.
38. The adjustable socket of claim 31, wherein said socket is formed comprising an alloy.
39. The adjustable socket of claim 38, wherein said socket is formed comprising stainless steel.